





NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

Quarterly Summary July * August * September Volume 27, Number 4

July-September 2011 CONDITIONS

By Jeff Thompson

Western Nevada

July 2011 was very warm and dry for most of western Nevada. Interestingly, the warmest temperature, and only triple-digit temperature of year (100°F) in Reno, came on the 29th. While the lack of 100s would seem to indicate a cooler month, there were plenty of 90s to make up for it. At Reno-Tahoe International Airport, the mean July temperature (75.4°F) was 4.1 degrees above average. The pattern completely switched under high pressure, from the 6th wettest June on record, to only a trace recorded for July. Rivers and streams ran very high and cold for much of the month, as melting of the ample snowpack accelerated.

August 2011 continued the warm and dry trend that began in July. The month went into the books as the 4th warmest August on record in Reno (75.6°F), considering the mean monthly temperature. While thunderstorms did bring some measurable rainfall to parts of the Sierra and areas mainly south of Highway 50, most of the area was bone dry. Only a trace was noted at Reno-Tahoe International airport for the month.

September 2011 was hot and dry in the western part of the state, dominated by a strong ridge of high pressure. In fact, with a mean monthly temperature of 70.6°F at Reno-Tahoe International Airport, September 2011 was the hottest September

in Reno dating back to 1888. There were a few trace amounts of precipitation measured, but the official Reno monthly total (0.03") came from thunderstorms in the late afternoon hours of the last day of the month. Other areas saw more precipitation earlier. Thunderstorms produced higher amounts in the Sierra and south of Highway 50. A total of 0.08" fell in Lovelock on the 16th.

Eastern Nevada

July 2011 was a mixed bag across central and eastern Nevada, going into the books very wet for White Pine County. Two periods of monsoonal flow impacted the region, one early in the month (4-7th) and a stronger event during the final weekend of July. Flash flooding was reported with both events. Winnemucca received a daily record rainfall amount for the 7th (0.11") during the first outbreak of thunderstorms. To the east and southeast, highest totals came with system number two. On the 31st, a daily record amount of 0.63" fell in Ely, adding to an impressive July total of 1.50" of precipitation. and Elko received its entire 0.10" for the month. Tonopah was a big winner precipitation-wise for both shots of rain and thunderstorms. The Nye County Seat saw 0.28" on Independence Day and 0.18" over the 30-31st. Warm and dry weather persisted between the two events under the influence of high pressure. Mean temperatures for July averaged from just below normal in Winnemucca, to above normal in Elko and Elv.

August 2011 started on a stormy note in central and Eastern Nevada, as a trough of low pressure and ample moisture prompted the National Weather Service to issue a flash flood watch. Following this event, aside from weak monsoonal flow late in the month. August was hot and dry under high pressure. Most of the precipitation fell with thunderstorms in the center of the state. An impressive precipitation total of 0.97" was measured in Eureka County by an observer, but this was contrary to the August total at the Eureka airport (official recording site) of only 0.38". Temperatures averaged above normal at all main reporting sites. In fact, the mean monthly temperatures for August 2011 went into the books as the 5th warmest on record for Ely, and the 6th warmest for Elko.

September 2011 was warmer than average across central and eastern Nevada, but much more active weather-wise than in western Nevada. High pressure started the month on a quiet note, and then gave way to a significant pattern change by the middle of September. Several troughs of low pressure dipped into the Great Basin, touching off rounds of showers and thunderstorms. Flash flood watches and warnings were issued for parts of the region. More than an inch of rain fell in some locations on the 16th, with the passage of a sharp cold front. Just as in July, Tonopah was again a big winner precipitation-wise during the month. The Nye County Seat saw 0.27" on the 10th and 0.31" on the 11th. The month then ended the same way that it began, high and dry under high pressure. With many quieter, days than stormy ones, monthly mean temperatures were high. September 2011 went into the books as the 5th warmest on record in Elko and Ely, and the 7th warmest in Winnemucca.

Southern Nevada

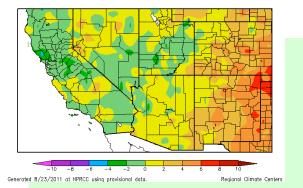
July 2011 was a wet month for parts of southern Nevada. Thunderstorms soaked some areas and left others dry. McCarran International was one of the wetter spots. July 2011 ended up as the 12th wettest July on record for Las Vegas, with a total of 0.83" in the rain gauge. A trace or more of precipitation was reported on nine days of the month, the most for a July since 2003. The southeast Las Vegas Valley saw the highest amounts, while areas to the west and north were drier. The wettest weather came on the 3rd, when 0.74" fell in 24 hours. The

remnants of Tropical Storm Arlene pumped ample moisture into southern Nevada for several days. This produced thunderstorms with very heavy rain and gusty winds. Flash flooding occurred in the southern Las Vegas Valley, while downed power poles were reported in areas north of the city due to damaging wind gusts from intense thunderstorm activity.

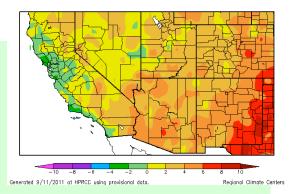
August 2011 was not only a very hot month in southern Nevada; it was the hottest on record at the official climate station for Las Vegas. The mean monthly temperature at McCarran International was 93.9°F, topping the previous high mark of 93.1 set back in 1995. Thirty days of the month topped out in triple-digit territory. The heat also came with little precipitation, as a strong ridge of high pressure over New Mexico dominated the weather pattern. The hot, dry weather followed a cool spring and average June and July. For the first time since 2004, the annual Las Vegas maximum came in August, rather than July, when the mercury rose to 112°F on the 24th. Precipitation was hit or miss, missing most of the Las Vegas Valley. At the airport, only 0.01" was recorded, with many locations reporting a trace or less. Some spots did get considerable precipitation with thunderstorms that popped in a weak monsoonal flow. A monthly total of 0.43" was reported in Henderson, while 0.18" was measured in Summerlin.

September 2011 was a warm and wet month for most of southern Nevada, a combination that is rare in any part of the Silver State. Two very warm periods, the first four days of the month, and September 18th through 30th, produced the 7th warmest September on the books. Independence Day was the hottest July day in Las Vegas, when the mercury climbed to 105°F at the airport. Contrary to that warmth, an upper level area of low pressure passed through the region between these two warm spells. Cooler temperatures prevailed, and daily outbreaks of showers and thunderstorms produced 9 days with a trace or more of precipitation, the most at McCarran International Airport since 1998. Storms also brought extreme weather. Damage and injuries were reported at Nellis Air Force Base on the 8th due to thunderstorm wind gusts. Flash flooding and large hail occurred on the 11th, 13th, and 14th, and a number of lightning strikes hit homes and palm trees around the Las Vegas Valley on the 13th.

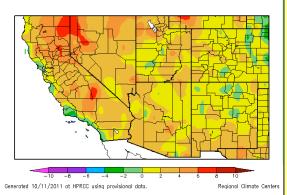
Departure from Normal Temperature (F) 7/1/2011 - 7/31/2011



Departure from Normal Temperature (F) 8/1/2011 - 8/31/2011



Departure from Normal Temperature (F) 9/1/2011 - 9/30/2011



TEMPERATURES across the Silver State were below average for southern Nevada in **July**, and above to well above average in northern and western Nevada.

August was a hot month. All areas were above average, with Pershing, Clark, northern Lander and Eureka, and western Elko Counties well above average.

September was another summer month weather-wise in Nevada, as it has been for the past few years. All of the state was above average temperature-wise, with western Nevada well above average for the month. Monthly mean temperatures in northern Washoe and Pershing Counties were more than six degrees above average.

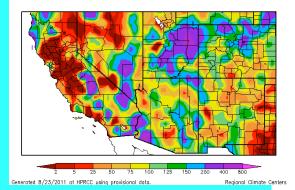
PRECIPITATION trended lower through the quarter for most of the state, especially in western Nevada.

July was dry in northern Nevada, while most of southern Nevada saw thunderstorms and above average monthly precipitation totals.

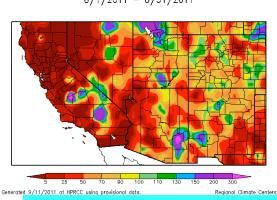
August was very dry throughout the state. Elko County was the exception, where above average precipitation was observed up around Wildhorse Reservoir.

September was very dry for northern Nevada. Clark County saw thunderstorm activity and well above average precipitation for many areas.

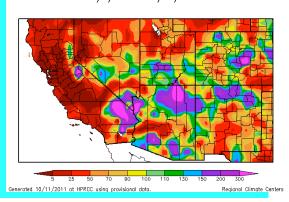
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 7/1/2011 - 7/31/2011



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 8/1/2011 - 8/31/2011



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 9/1/2011 - 9/30/2011



U.S. Drought Monitor

August 2, 2011





The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. fitions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

http://drought.unl.edu/dm





U.S. Drought Monitor

August 30, 2011







The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summ for forecast statements.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm





October 4, 2011

U.S. Drought Monitor Nevada

	D	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)									
	None D0-D4 D1-D4 D2-D4 D3-D4										
Current	89.99	10.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
Last Week (09/27/2011 map)	89.92	10.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
3 Months Ago (07/05/2011 map)	97.61	2.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	79.80	20.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	89.92	10.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
One Year Ago (09/28/2010 map)	4.61	95.39	28.80	0.00	0.00	0.00					



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. tions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast stateme

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu





The third quarter of 2011 saw a drought-free Nevada for the most part. Although little precipitation came during the period to much of the state, this is a typically dry part of the year and not expected to bring much moisture. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) in Clark County were shifted, due to wet July and September thunderstorm outbreaks in some areas.

JULY

While conditions were warm and dry, the state stayed free of drought designation. D0 conditions in parts of Clark County persisted, even as thunderstorms brought above average totals to many areas.

AUGUST

A warm and dry August in most areas did not change the map. D0 conditions in Clark County shifted to the Colorado River Valley, following the wet July for parts of W. Clark County.

SEPTEMBER

The dry summer, while expected in Nevada, did expand "abnormally dry" conditions back into the center of the state. D0 designation was reintroduced into Lander County and surrounding areas by early October. D0 conditions were also maintained in the Colorado River Valley.

Precipitation Storage Gauge Network 2010-11' Water Year Totals

#	Gauge	Visit Date	Catch	Average	Recharge
1	Lebo Springs	9/29/11	21.33"	14.2"	8.0"
2	Sand Pass	10/11/11	NEW	NEW	8.0"
3	Limerick Canyon	10/6/11	12.5"	10.5"*	8.0"
4	Leviathan Peak	9/28/11	26.75"	17.79"	8.0"
5	Risue Canyon	9/28/11	13.9"	NEW	8.0"
6	Risue Summit	9/28/11	15.0"	12.61"	8.0"
7	Sweetwater	9/28/11	11.16"	12.7"	8.0"
8	Walker R. Elbow	10/12/11	5.5"	NEW	8.0"
9	Aldrich Summit	10/12/11	6.3"	12.25"*	8.0"
10	Lucky Boy Pass	10/12/11	8.75"	11.03"	8.0"
11	Anchorite Pass	10/13/11	9.0"	10.5"*	8.0"
12	Petrified Summit	10/13/11	5.5"	9.08"*	8.0"
13	Ione Summit	10/13/11	NEW	NEW	8.0"
14	Carroll Summit	10/13/11	20.5"	16.6"	8.0"
15	Railroad Summit	10/13/11	NEW	NEW	8.0"
16	Bob Scott Summit	10/13/11	18.1"	13.9"	8.0"
17	Hickison Summit	10/14/11	11.75"	6.6"*	8.0"
18	Petes Summit	10/14/11	12.1"	11.41"	8.0"
19	Little Antelope	10/14/11	NEW	14.96"*	8.0"
20	Upper Tybo	10/15/11	NEW	15.28"*	8.0"
21	Baxter Spring	10/15/11	NEW	7.57"*	8.0"
22	Hinkey Summit	10/16/11	43.7"	36.39"	8.0"
23	Cabin Creek	10/16/11	22.25"	13.5"*	8.0"

Fall 2011 NSCO Storage Gauge Summary

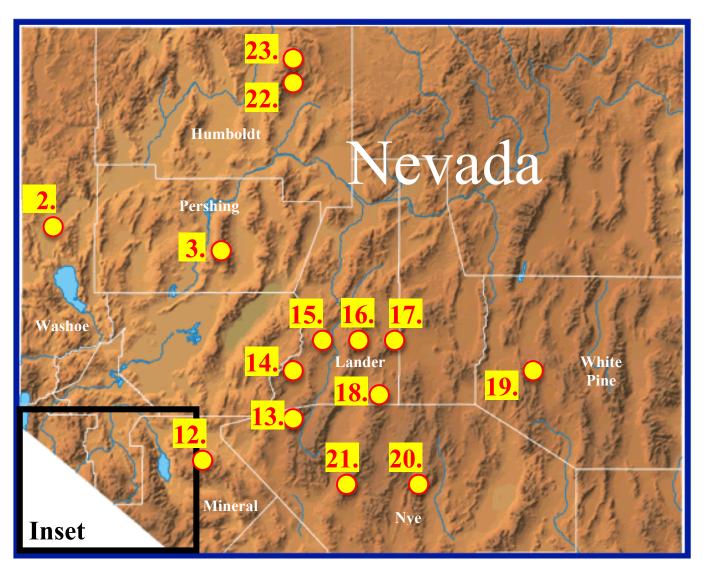
Coming off of an exceptionally wet winter and spring season that eliminated drought from the Silver State, gauge catches were expected to be above average. This was case for most sites. In several locations where this was not the case, averages were based on only a few years of data from ten or more years ago, and not analyzed by current office staff for quality control.

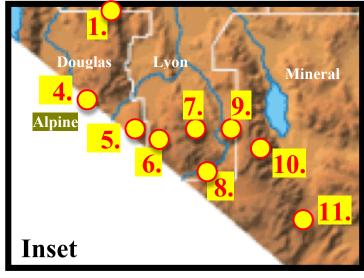
Gauges were all found intact with catches. Vandalism was only noted at one site where the gauge was shot but not compromised. Certain catches were very significant, including the Hinkey Summit site, where 43.7" of precipitation was measured, the Leviathan Peak site, yielding 26.75", and the Lebo Springs Gauge, where 21.33" was totaled.

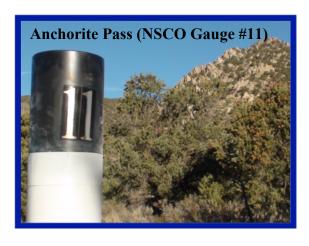
Averages based on three years of data or less are indicated with an asterisk (*).

A current map of the 23 NSCO precipitation storage gauge sites is on the following page.

Precipitation Storage Gauge Network 2011 (23 Sites Statewide)







July-September 2011 Climate Notes

Did you know...?

- 1. Lightning strikes on July 5th triggered two wildfires in the Nevada National Security Site that burned more than 6000 acres in three days.
- 2. Heavy rainfall (2-3" in 24 Hours) fell in the Spring Mountains on July 5th. Flash flooding washed out roads at Spring Mountain State Park.
- 3. The only triple-digit temperature observed at Reno-Tahoe International Airport in 2011 came on July 29th, when the mercury hit 100°F.
- 4. A Flash Flood Watch was issued for central and eastern Nevada in early August with ample moisture and a trough moving through the area. Eureka saw a 24-hour total of 0.13" on the 3rd.
- 5. Las Vegas saw its hottest August on record in 2011, with a mean temperature of 93.9°F.
- 6. Las Vegas (McCarran International Airport) hit an annual high temperature of 112°F on August 24th. The last time the yearly maximum came in August, rather than July, was back in 2004.
- 7. September 2011 was the warmest September in Reno since 1888. The mean monthly temperature of 70.6°F was 8.2 degrees above normal at the airport.
- 8. September 2011 was the fifth warmest September on record in Elko (3.8°F above average) and Ely (3.5°F above average).
- 9. It was a wet September in parts of Lander County. A total of 1.51" was reported for the month in Austin.

References:

Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

US Drought Monitor: www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

National Weather Service: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov

Western Regional Climate Center: http://www.wrcc.dri.edu

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WEBSITE on the
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STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2011												
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	Average Monthly Temp		Snowfall			
Climate Division 1 (NW)												
Reno ASOS	100	29 th	52	14 th	92.2	58.5	75.4	Т	0			
Climate Division 2 (NE)												
Elko ASOS	98	3 rd	45	27 th	91.6	52.0	71.8	0.10	0			
Ely ASOS	96	2 nd	42	20 th	86.8	49.7	68.3	1.50	0			
Climate Division 3 (Central)												
Eureka AWOS	99	3 rd	42	26 th	91.1	49.5	70.3	0.53	*			
Tonopah ASOS	99	3 rd	45	17 th	90.3	56.0	73.1	0.64	*			
Winnemucca ASOS	100	29 th	40	17 th	92.7	49.8	71.2	0.11	0			
Climate Division 4 (S)												
Las Vegas ASOS	111	2 nd	74	17 th	102.5	80.8	91.6	0.83	0			

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2011												
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	Average Monthly Temp		Snowfall			
Climate Division 1 (NW)												
Reno ASOS	99	26 th	53	30 th	93.1	58.1	75.6	Т	0			
Climate Division 2 (NE)												
Elko ASOS	98	26 th	43	30 th	92.4	50.1	71.2	0.11	0			
Ely ASOS	95	24 th	40	5 th	89.5	48.9	69.2	0.07	0			
Climate Division 3 (Central)												
Eureka AWOS	96	26 th	39	16 th	91.3	49.5	70.4	0.38	*			
Tonopah ASOS	97	25 th	50	4 th	92.1	56.1	74.1	Т	*			
Winnemucca ASOS	99	26 th	39	18 th	93.4	47.7	70.5	0.01	0			
Climate Division 4 (S)												
Las Vegas ASOS	112	24 th	74	1 st	105.8	81.9	93.9	0.01	0			

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2011												
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	•		Snowfall			
Climate Division 1 (NW)												
Reno ASOS	94	22 nd	45	26 th	87.2	53.9	70.6	0.03	0			
Climate Division 2 (NE)												
Elko ASOS	91	4 th	34	18 th	83.7	41.6	62.6	0.38	0			
Ely ASOS	88	4 th	36	2 nd	80.2	40.4	60.3	1.33	0			
Climate Division 3 (Central)												
Eureka AWOS	90	4 th	37	3 rd	82.5	42.0	62.3	0.31	*			
Tonopah ASOS	90	4 th	47	18 th	83.5	51.9	67.7	0.65	*			
Winnemucca ASOS	93	24 th	30	2 nd	86.7	41.4	64.0	0.15	0			
Climate Division 4 (S)												
Las Vegas ASOS	105	4 th	64	15 th	95.6	72.4	84.0	0.78	0			

	STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2011										
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day			Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall		
Climate Division 1 (NW)											
Carson City	79	*	18	*	56.6	34.8	45.7	0.17	0		
Cold Springs	76	1 st	19	30 th	56.4	30.8	43.6	0.54	1.8		
Fernley	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m		
Gardnerville	82	1 st	20	14 th	63.6	31.3	47.6	0.15	0		
Hay Creek*											
Jacks Valley	68	1 st	18	7 th	57.0	32.7	44.8	0.26	*		
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	80	1 st	18	12 th	64.8	35.6	50.1	0.00	*		
Minden	82	*	18	*	61.4	30.0	45.4	0.28	0		
Mogul	78	1 st	20	8 th	60.7	34.2	47.5	0.00	*		
Reno, N. Virginia	77	1 st	25	8 th	58.0	35.5	46.8	0.24	0		
Sheridan Acres	81	1 st	21	9 th	61.0	34.3	47.6	0.34	0		
Stillwater (Precip. only)								m	m		
Truckee-Tahoe	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m		
Wellington	82	1 st	14	8 th	62.0	30.7	46.4	0.30	0		
Verdi	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m		
Vya	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m		
Climate Division 2 (NE)											
Jarbidge	66	1 st	18	21 st	48.0	27.7	37.8	3.36	25.6		
Reese River	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m		
Climate Division 3 (Central)											
Gabbs	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m		
Marietta	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m		
Pioche - Lister Ranch	76	2 nd	-5	10 th	62.0	24.7	43.3	0.49	0		
Tonopah	79	1 st	15	9 th	60.9	30.8	45.8	0.15	3.0		
Climate Division 4 (S)											
Amargosa Farms	91	*	29	*	78.4	44.7	61.8	0.00	0		
N. Las Vegas	92	*	40	*	78.0	53.5	65.5	0.01	0		
Overton	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m		
Sandy Valley (precip. only)								0.00	0		

^{* -} Incomplete data m - Missing data nr - Not Recorded

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2011										
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day			Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall	
Climate Division 1 (NW)	_						-			
Carson City	79	*	24	*	62.8	36.2	49.4	0.09	0	
Cold Springs	78	5 th	20	1 st	62.5	33.7	48.1	0.57	2.3	
Fernley	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Gardnerville	83	5 th	20	1 st	67.6	34.4	51.0	0.61	0	
Hay Creek*	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Jacks Valley	80	5 th	28	28 th	65.1	37.8	51.4	0.72	*	
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	80	5 th	26	16 th	67.4	37.9	52.6	0.57	*	
Minden	82	*	23	*	67.4	34.7	51.2	0.44	0	
Mogul	85	13 th	24	1 st	69.4	37.6	53.5	0.57	*	
Reno, N. Virginia	80	13 th	28	16 th	64.3	38.5	51.4	0.36	0	
Sheridan Acres	82	13 th	25	16 th	66.5	37.9	52.2	3.50	1.5	
Stillwater (Precip. only)								m	m	
Truckee-Tahoe	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Wellington	81	5 th	24	1 st	67.7	37.2	52.2	0.53	0	
Verdi	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Vya	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Climate Division 2 (NE)										
Jarbidge	76	13 th	22	3 rd	58.6	34.1	46.3	4.53	8.6	
Reese River	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Climate Division 3 (Central)										
Gabbs	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Marietta	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Pioche - Lister Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Tonopah	83	13 th	25	1 st	66.4	37.2	51.8	0.28	0.5	
Climate Division 4 (S)										
Amargosa Farms	94	*	36	*	82.3	49.5	65.9	0.10	0	
N. Las Vegas	96	*	50	*	81.9	58.2	69.8	0.01	0	
Overton	100	7 th	44	1 st	85.5	54.2	69.8	0.21	0	
Sandy Valley (precip. only)								Т	0	

^{* -} Incomplete data m - Missing data nr - Not Recorded

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2011										
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day			Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall	
Climate Division 1 (NW)					_					
Davis Creek	94	23 rd	23	3 rd	76.7	37.6	57.2	2.33	0	
Carson City	90	*	34	*	75.8	45.9	61.3	1.83	0	
Cold Springs	90	22 nd	25	3 rd	74.7	41.7	58.2	2.01	0.2	
Fernley	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Gardnerville	94	22 nd	26	3 rd	78.4	42.5	60.5	1.97	0	
Hay Creek*	93	23 rd	34	3 rd	74.2	43.2	58.7	2.02	0	
Jacks Valley	90	22 nd	32	1 st	79.0	48.6	63.8	1.96	0	
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	90	21 st	30	3 rd	79.4	45.9	62.6	1.91	0	
Minden	94	*	28	*	80.2	42.6	61.7	2.02	0	
Mogul	98	22 nd	30	3 rd	82.7	46.8	64.8	1.59	0	
Reno, N. Virginia	93	23 rd	32	3 rd	75.6	47.9	61.8	1.57	0	
Sheridan Acres	92	22 nd	27	1 st	77.7	46.5	62.1	1.73	Т	
Stillwater (Precip. only)								m	m	
Truckee-Tahoe	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Wellington	94	22 nd	26	2 nd	78.7	44.4	61.6	0.71	0	
Verdi	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Vya	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Climate Division 2 (NE)										
Jarbidge	88	22 nd	26	2 nd	72.1	39.7	55.9	1.85	0	
Reese River	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Climate Division 3 (Central)										
Gabbs	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Marietta	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Pioche - Lister Ranch	92	24 th	28	10 th	81.7	39.2	60.4	0.07	0	
Tonopah	96	22 nd	28	2 nd	81.4	48.7	65.1	0.00	0	
Climate Division 4 (S)										
Amargosa Farms	108	*	40	*	95.3	61.4	78.4	0.00	0	
N. Las Vegas	109	*	59	*	97.6	70.5	83.6	0.00	0	
Overton	115	28 th	52	1 st	102.1	63.4	82.7	0.00	0	
Sandy Valley (precip. only)								0.31	0	

^{* -} Incomplete data m - Missing data nr - Not Recorded

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